

Great Synagogue Military Service.

The Monthly Military Service held at the Great Synagogue last Sunday evening was attended by a large number of men and women in uniform. The presence amongst the congregation of many non-Jewish friends was a significant exemplification not only of the growing camaraderie between Jews and Christians in the Forces, but also of the increasing popularity of these monthly services.

The Prayers were read by Captain S. Kassel, and Corporal S. Chesler opened the Ark for the reading of the Prayer for the Royal Family. Rabbi Abrahams delivered the address, in the course of which he said:—

Recently much has been heard of the desirability of opening up a second front. The ordinary man in the street debated the question earnestly. Yet this was an issue that only the military strategists could decide. But there was a second front of another kind which pre-eminently belonged to every man and woman. It was a front, moreover, on which alone the true and ultimate victory could be won. It was there, and there only, that the real enemy had to be fought. On that battlefield an age-long spiritual war was being waged by the Spirit of Religion against the Evil of Paganism.

The Pagan, whether of old or to-day, was essentially one who made unto himself a god in his own image. His own egotism, desire for power, lust for gain, materialistic ambitions were the sole criteria of his outlook and striving. Hitler was only the "stooge" of the pagan forces at work to-day, as was the Kaiser and countless others before him in their time. Biblical religion, on the other hand, recognised the Father of all Creation as the only God. It was man's highest ideal to fashion his soul in His likeness—in the pattern of His truth and goodness. The implications of such a faith were compellingly clear. If God was the Father, all men were his children, and all peoples were brothers. The Hebrew conception of God was linked to an ideal of supreme justice and Divine love, which in human relations found expression in the sublime precept, "Love thy neighbour as thyself."

Without such a faith there could be no true nor enduring freedom; without a great spiritual victory there could be no permanent peace nor real happiness for mankind as a whole.

"We need to open a great Second Front," concluded the Rabbi, "a spiritual front that will eventually encompass the entire world, and rout the enemy, Pagan Materialism, from off the face of the earth."

As on previous occasions, the Great Synagogue Ladies' Guild acted as hosts to the congregation and provided tea and refreshments for all the members of the Forces.

Zionist Conversazione.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC EVENING.

The fortnightly Conversazione held on Tuesday night in the Zionist (Major) Hall took the form of a Musical and Dramatic Evening, which proved a great success.

Dr. I. M. Hurwitz opened the proceedings and on behalf of the Dorshei Zion Association welcomed the large audience present. He announced that the play by I. L. Peretz which had been advertised had been postponed owing to unforeseen circumstances.

Mr. Harry Rabinowitz rendered several of Engel's pianoforte compositions, and also sang several songs to his own accompaniment.

Miss Ann Toyk gave two dramatic monologues which were much appreciated.

Mr. B. Padowich gave a very interesting talk on "Jewish Drama" and traced its history from the earliest times until the present day. Greece, he said, was the cradle of drama and theatre which helped to spread Hellenism all over the world. Though Jewish leaders saw the danger of this and were opposed to the theatre, theatres were nevertheless established in Jerusalem where plays were presented in Greek.

Later on the Jewish theatre developed its own individuality. From the "Purim-Shpiel" in which the Jew found relief from the hard conditions of daily life, there developed the "theatre-cult."

The Jewish theatre proper began in 1876 with Abraham Goldfaden, who wrote and produced plays suitable for a limited cast. He had to adapt himself to the taste of his audience and the theatre did not develop on a high level but became a mere means of amusement for the masses. Russia and America became the centres of the Jewish theatrical world. The "operetta" drew large audiences but the standard was very low and inartistic. New actors and dramatists appeared who tried to raise the standard. In 1904 Jacob Gordin became interested in the Jewish theatre and introduced technical and other improvements. There was a transition from the operetta to classical drama but the atmosphere was not very much different.

It was I. L. Peretz who created the famous Theatre Society which Sholem Asch, Finsky, Leivik and others joined. Jewish drama was enriched but the Jewish theatre did not improve to any marked extent.

The Russian Revolution stimulated the theatre greatly, said Mr. Padowich, and he traced the growth of the Habimah and Kamer theatres in Moscow. These were of the highest artistic standard and to-day

(Continue in Third Column).

"LINES OF COMMUNICATION."

ago that I referred in these notes to this gallant lad. He then wrote of his visit to Palestine and his impressions of the Holy Land were written in vivid style. The youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shore, of Hof Street, Cape Town, the L/Corporal, who joined up at the beginning of the war, went "up" with his regiment in May, two years ago, and after the Abyssinian campaign was in action in Libya. His parents were advised of his death last month. Herbert was formerly a partner in the legal firm of Shore and Kleinman. He studied at S.A.C.S. and then qualified as an advocate, obtaining his B.A., LL.B. degrees at the Cape Town University. His brother, Captain S. C. Shore, is on service up North with the S.A.M.C. My sincerest sympathy is extended to the family in their great loss.

* * * * *

The 5000th Recruit.

On Monday night, when the Central Recruiting Depot in Adderley Street finished business for the day, 4,999 recruits for the South African armed forces—the Army, the Air Force and the Seaward Defence Force—had been dealt with since the inception of the depot in September, 1940. On Tuesday morning the 5000th recruit presented himself. He was J. R. Woolf, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Woolf, of Joubert Road, Green Point, and is being drafted to the Air Force. Good luck, youngster!

(Continued from Second Column).

the Habimah, which was transferred to Palestine, is famous all over the world.

After the interval two plays of Zionist interest were staged. In the first, "To be or not to be," by Judith G. Epstein, the following participated: Lily Satusky, Etta Sieff, Mildred Bloch, Florrie Chiat, Jess Auerbach, Roma Gottlieb, Esther Fagov.

The cast of the sketch "A Day in the life of a Chairlady" consisted of I. M. Grusd, Lily Satusky and Mary Segal.

Both plays were very much enjoyed.

Dr. Hurwitz thanked all those who had helped to make the evening a success.

מוצאי שבת

The Beth Din announces
that Sabbath ends on
May 2nd, at 6.36 p.m.

BARMITZVAH.

ABT.—Eli, eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. H. Abt, of the Jewish Hostel "Herzlia," 6, Vredehoek Avenue, will read the Sidrah and Mafzir at the Gardens Synagogue on Saturday, 2nd May. Brocha at the Hostel. Friends cordially invited.

Phone 2-5164

P.O. Box 868

Mercantile-Atlas

PRINTING Co. [Pty.] LIMITED

C/o SIR LOWRY ROAD
and DORMEHL STREET

CAPE TOWN

Printers, Lithographers and Carton Manufacturers